
Press Release

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CALIFORNIA'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ARE FUNDED AT LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OVER THE NEXT DECADE

LOS ANGELES, CA—California Transportation Commission (CTC) Chair Dario Frommer discussed their 2011 Annual Report and 10-Year Transportation Needs Assessment with the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

The CTC is responsible for programming and allocating funds for construction of California's highways, passenger rail and transit improvements. The agency reports to the State Legislature annually, to summarize proposed capital outlays and identify future transportation needs. This year the CTC took the additional step of updating the Ten-Year Needs Assessment to analyze the current system and determine what is needed to preserve, maintain and expand California's transportation system over the next decade and determine the corresponding funding sources.

"As the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, it is important that SCAG work closely with the CTC to support their efforts to compile information, evaluate the current status of our state and regional transportation system and identify the maintenance and expansion necessary to ensure safe travel, public health and economic prosperity" said SCAG President Pam O'Connor.

Historically the primary funding source for transportation preservation and expansion has been the excise gas tax. This revenue source is not indexed for inflation and has not risen in nearly two decades to account for the increase in population and system utilization. In addition, technological advancements have resulted in more fuel efficient vehicles that require less gasoline per mile. The CTC has projected nearly \$538 billion is needed over the next decade to repair, maintain and construct an effective, efficient and safe state transportation system, but anticipated revenues total only \$242 billion.

“SCAG’s Regional Council appreciated hearing directly from CTC Chair Frommer regarding the 10-Year funding challenges California faces in securing the funding needed to ensure a safe and reliable transportation system for the nation’s most populous state. SCAG’s Regional Council is committed to supporting the CTC in working on next steps with the Legislature and the CTC,” O’Connor said.

The information from Southern California contained in the CTC needs assessment is consistent with the recently completed SCAG Draft 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The draft plan addresses the region’s transportation, land use and housing needs over the next 25 years.

For more detail, both plans can be found at www.scag.ca.gov or the CTC reports at www.catc.ca.gov

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 19 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.